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UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 000975

STATE FOR H, KIRSTEN STIANSEN  
STATE FOR RM/F/DFS/FO/AA/CAA

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [OREP](#) [AMGT](#) [ASEC](#) [AFIN](#) [SNAR](#) [PTER](#) [KTIP](#) [AR](#)  
SUBJECT: ARGENTINA: CODEL GRANGER, AUGUST 30-SEPTEMBER 2

REF: SECSTATE 84084

¶1. The Charge d'Affaires, Tom Kelly, warmly welcomes Representative Kay Granger and the delegation she is leading to Argentina August 30 - September 2. Per reftel, the purpose of the trip is to examine Department of Justice office operations in Buenos Aires and consult with the Government of Argentina on bilateral cooperation in fighting drug and human trafficking, and terrorism.

¶2. Control Officer will be Political Officer Ted Craig.  
Email: CraigTJ@state.gov, cellphone (011-54-9-11) 3210-1217  
Office telephone (54-11) 5777-4858/4656, Embassy Phone (011-54-11) 5777-4234. Embassy Hours: 08:45 am to 05:45 pm.

Administrative point of contact will be Management Officer Dorothy Sarro. Email: SarroDK@state.gov, Cellphone: (011-54-9-11) 6602-7332; Home Phone: (011-54-11) 4803-2720.

¶3. Post has secured reservations at the following hotel:

EMPERADOR HOTEL  
AV. LIBERTADOR 420  
TEL: 54-11-4131-4004  
FAX: 54-11-4131-3910  
EMAIL: RESERVAS@HOTEL-EMPERADOR.COM.AR  
WWW.HOTEL-EMPERADOR.COM.AR  
SEVEN (7) ROOMS RESERVED

Hotel rate for standard room including tax is US \$196.00 and breakfast is included. Cancellation policy is as follows:  
Cancellations must be made within 24 hours of arrival otherwise the hotel will charge for one night stay.  
Early check-in at the Hotel Emperador has been arranged for August 30 on arrival. Post will meet and greet the codel at the airport and provide transportation throughout the codel's stay in Argentina.

¶4. Visas: Visitors are reminded that Argentina requires visas in U.S. diplomatic and official passports for official travel. Persons traveling on official business and carrying diplomatic or official passports who arrive without a valid visa may be denied entry and sent back to point of origin. The Embassy is unable to secure entry of travelers who arrive without visas.

¶5. Threat assessment:

¶A. Political violence/terrorism: liaison with host government police and security forces indicate there is little threat to U.S. citizens (official visitors, business visitors, tourists) from indigenous terrorist organizations in Argentina. There are no violent domestic groups currently active in this country that are specifically targeting U.S. interests. However, given the presence of members of and support for extremist international terrorist groups such as Hizbollah in the tri-border region of Argentina (Misiones province), visitors here cannot discount the possibility of terrorist activity, to include random acts of anti-American

violence.

¶B. Crime: Petty street crime in the city of Buenos Aires and the immediate suburbs continues to be a problem for residents and visitors alike. Burglaries in the more fashionable suburbs have been a particular problem. Visitors to the city of Buenos Aires should be aware of problems with hotel security (i.e. thefts from room) and pickpockets or purse snatching on the streets and public transportation (buses and trains).

Pickpockets often work in pairs and employ a variety of ruses to victimize the unsuspecting visitor. In recent years, most crime affecting visitors has been non-violent; aggravated robberies, shootings, etc., while not completely unheard of in Buenos Aires were nonetheless uncommon. Recently, however, incidents of armed invasions of restaurants, shops and residences by criminal groups are being observed with greater frequency, and as a result, it is recommended that due caution be exercised when traveling about the city. However, in general, the crime level in Buenos Aires is less severe than large U.S. cities.

¶6. Per diem (lodging and M&IE, plus US\$50), will be disbursed in Argentine pesos immediately upon arrival. Reverse currency exchange will be provided prior to departure.

¶7. Telephone Calls: As requested, three (3) cellular telephones will be provided. Visitors should bring fund cites or credit card to cover the cost of official international and in-country long distance landline telephone calls. International calling cards are recommended.

¶8. Laptop Computers/Digital Cameras: Laptops/palm pilots, cellular phones and other electronic devices may not be brought into the Embassy without the prior approval of the regional security office. Personally owned laptops/palm pilots may not/not be used in the Embassy. USG-owned laptops may only be used in controlled access areas (CAA) if the user certifies that the computer has been continuously under the personal control of a cleared American throughout transit. If this requirement is not met, the laptop can only be used outside of the CAA. USG-owned palm pilots are under the same restrictions as cellular phones and other electronic devices, and may not be utilized within the CAA. At the embassy, all USG issued or personal cellular phones must be left outside of the CAA. Use of cellular phones outside of the CAA is not restricted. It should be noted that if traveler is bringing a cellular phone into the country, argentine law requires the traveler to declare the phone, including its value, when filling out the customs and immigration declaration form.

¶9. For further general information regarding travel to Argentina, travelers should consult the department of state internet site at <http://travel.state.gov/>, which includes the latest consular information sheet for Argentina.

KELLY